



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps

Mission

To produce leaders for the Air Force and build better citizens for America.

Personnel and Resources

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) includes four Region Headquarters, 144 Detachments and over 900 cross-town universities. In 2006, ROTC commissioned 2,083 new second lieutenants who entered active duty in the United States Air Force.

Organization

The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) is the largest and oldest source of commissioned officers for the Air Force. Its headquarters is located at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), Montgomery, AL. The Air Force ROTC Program is designed to recruit, educate and commission officer candidates through college campus programs based on Air Force requirements. Students can attend classes through host or cross-town enrollment programs or consortium agreements. Cadet enrollments have ranged from a high of 23,605 in 1986 to a low of 10,231 in 1993.

History

ROTC was established with passage of the National Defense Act of 1916. The first Air Force ROTC units were established between 1920 and 1923 at the University of California at Berkeley, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Illinois, the University of Washington, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College.

After World War II, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Chief of Staff of the War Department, signed General Order No. 124, establishing Air ROTC units at 77 colleges and universities throughout the nation. Eligible Air Force enlisted men and women pursuing a college degree who were interested in becoming commissioned officers were given that opportunity through competition in the Air Force ROTC Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program, established in 1973.

In 1978, Air Training Command assumed responsibility for Air Force ROTC programs. On July 1, 1993, Air Training Command merged with Air University to form Air Education and Training Command. Air University became a direct reporting unit under Air Education and Training Command and Air Force ROTC realigned under Air University.

In February 1997, Air Force ROTC and Officer Training School merged under the newly created umbrella organization, Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools (AFOATS). This restructuring placed oversight for three-quarters of Air Force officer production under one command and facilitated the sharing of manpower and expertise with minimum effect on the day-to-day operations of either organization.

Senior ROTC Program

There are two primary routes to an Air Force commission for college students through Senior Air Force ROTC – the four-year program and the two-year program. Students attend Air Force ROTC classes along with other college courses and normally receive elective academic credit.



After successfully completing all requirements, the cadets are commissioned as Air Force officers with a four-year active duty service commitment. Pilots, navigators and air battle managers have longer commitments upon completion of specialized training.

Four-Year Program

The first two years of the Air Force ROTC four-year program, the General Military Course, consist of one hour of classroom work and two hours of leadership laboratory each week. Upon completion of General Military Course requirements, cadets who wish to compete for entry into the last two years of the program, the Professional Officer Course, must do so under the requirements of the Professional Officer Course selection system. This system uses qualitative factors, such as grade-point average, unit commander's evaluation, aptitude test scores and physical fitness test scores to determine a student's officer potential. After selection, students must successfully complete a four-week summer field training program at an assigned Air Force base before entering the Professional Officer Course.

In the Professional Officer Course, cadets attend class three hours a week and participate in a weekly leadership laboratory lasting two hours. Cadets apply what they have learned in the General Military Course and at field training. Professional Officer Course cadets conduct the leadership laboratories and manage the unit's cadet corps. Each unit has a cadet corps based on the Air Force organizational pattern of flight, squadron, group, and wing. Professional Officer Course classes are small, with emphasis on group discussions and cadet presentations. Classroom topics include leadership, communication skills and national defense policy. Once enrolled in the Professional Officer Course, all cadets are enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and assigned to the Obligated Reserve Section.

Two-Year Program

The Air Force ROTC two-year program allows cadets to enter the last two years of the four-year program. Entrance into the Professional Officer Course is highly competitive. Two-year applicants must successfully complete an "extended" field training program to prepare them for entry into the Professional Officer Course. Two-year applicants are not committed to the Air Force until they return to school in the fall and make a decision to enlist through Air Force ROTC.

Scholarships

Current emphasis in the Air Force ROTC College Scholarship Program is to award scholarships to candidates pursuing undergraduate engineering or other scientific and technical disciplines. More than half of Air Force ROTC scholarships are awarded to students in these disciplines. However, students in every degree program enjoy scholarship opportunities, as the Air Force seeks to engage students who excel both academically and militarily.

Scholarships are awarded in increments of two, three, and four years. Air Force ROTC offers several types of scholarships. Type 1 covers full tuition and most required fees. Type 2 covers tuition and fees, but is capped at \$15,000 annually. Type 3 pays up to \$9,000 annually and can be used at any university that offers Air Force ROTC. Type 7 scholarships are normally designated for in-state tuition-level institutions. All types of awards provide an allowance for books, most required fees and a monthly nontaxable stipend.

All scholarship cadets are required to meet certain academic, military, and physical fitness standards to earn and maintain scholarship benefits. Also, scholarship recipients must be younger than 31 as of December 31 of the calendar year during which commissioning is scheduled.

Field Training

Field Training, in many cases, is a cadet's first exposure to a working Air Force environment and the Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept. The program develops military leadership and discipline, and provides Air Force officer orientation and motivation. At the same time, the Air Force can evaluate each cadet's potential as an officer.

Field training provides Air Force leadership opportunities, professional development, marksmanship training, team building, physical fitness, and AEF orientation. Uniforms, lodging, meals and transportation (from the cadet's home of record or school) are provided at no cost.

Medical Professions

Nursing majors may apply for an AFROTC scholarship and graduates agree to accept a commission in the Air Force Nurse Corps and serve four years on active duty after successfully completing their

licensing examination. Cadet premedical scholarship recipients who are accepted to medical school within one year of graduating may be sponsored in their pursuit of medical degrees.

Legal Professions

Both first-year and second-year law students can apply for ROTC scholarships. Students complete either a one-year or two-year ROTC program while attending law school.

Additionally, second-year law students can pursue an Air Force commission through Air Force ROTC's graduate law program. This program guarantees judge advocate duty after a student completes all Air Force ROTC, law school, and bar requirements. After graduating from an American Bar Association-accredited law school, the student must be admitted to practice law before the highest state court of any state or a federal court. The new lawyer is then commissioned into the Air Force in the grade determined by the laws and directives in effect at the time of call to active duty.

Airman Commissioning Opportunities

Air Force ROTC has four programs in which Air Force enlisted personnel may pursue a commission. **Scholarships for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC (SOAR)** allows commanders to recognize outstanding airmen by nominating them for an Air Force ROTC scholarship in any major. The **Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program (ASCP)** lets airmen compete for Air Force ROTC scholarships while coordinating their application package with the Air Force ROTC unit they are interested in attending. Although any major may be selected, technical and nursing are usually considered more favorably. Both scholarship programs are available in two- to four-year lengths. To be eligible for a scholarship, airmen must be working on their first bachelor's degree and cannot exceed age limits as prescribed by public law. The **Professional Officer Course Early Release Program (POC-ERP)** is available to airmen who may not be eligible or competitive for a scholarship due to age, degree program or grade point average. Individuals compete for allocations while coordinating their application package with the Air Force ROTC unit they are interested in attending. These three Air Force ROTC programs require the selected airmen to leave active duty to complete their degree and Air Force requirements necessary to earn a commission.

Air Force ROTC also manages the **Airmen Education and Commissioning Program (AECP)**. AECP allows selected airmen to remain on active duty while pursuing a baccalaureate degree at a college or university affiliated with AFROTC. Upon graduation, they will attend Officer Training School (OTS) and commission as a second lieutenant upon completion of OTS.

More information about these programs can be obtained from a base education office, an Air Force ROTC unit, or log on to <http://www.afoats.af.mil/AFROTC/EnlistedComm/EnlistedCommissioning.asp>.

For More Information

The Air Force is seeking talented and motivated high school and college students with solid character and demonstrated leadership potential. In the Air Force ROTC program, cadets are students first and spend an average of four to six contact hours weekly as freshmen/sophomores. As juniors and seniors, cadets spend six to ten hours of contact time weekly as they work to build and refine their leadership skills. Successful completion of a four-year accredited degree program and Air Force ROTC leads to a commission as a second lieutenant in the best Air Force in the world. If you have ever considered serving your country in any capacity and joining a world class winning team, contact Air Force ROTC for more information: Air Force ROTC, Recruiting Branch, 551 East Maxwell Boulevard, Maxwell AFB, AL, 36112-6106, call toll-free, 1-866-4AFROTC (1-866-423-7682) or go to <http://www.afrotc.com>.

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